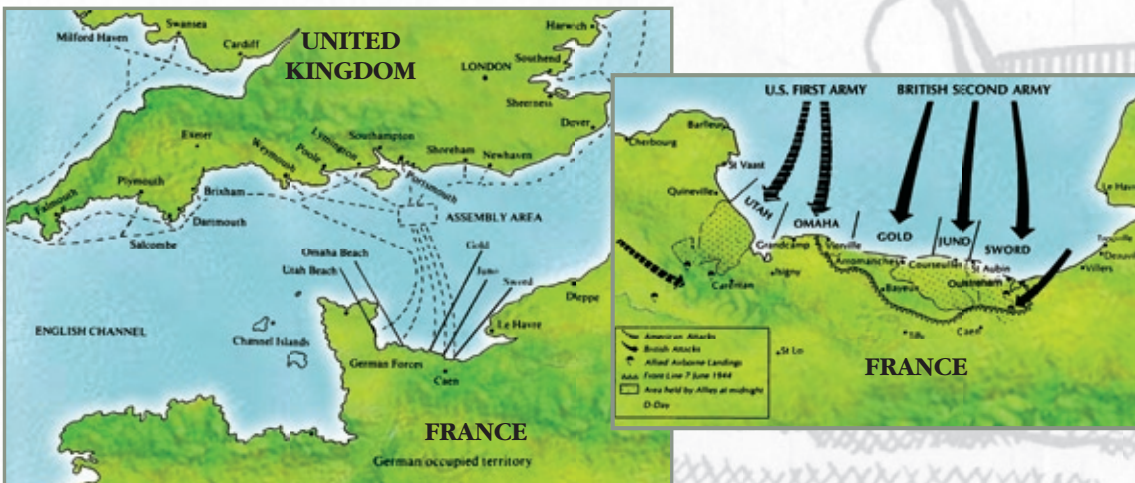


Welcome to Torcross Sherman D.D. Tank

Unsuspecting visitors may wonder why a Sherman tank stands in this Devon village surrounded by tranquil countryside. It honours the memory of servicemen who perished in one of the great tragedies of World War II, & marks the importance of Slapton Sands & surrounding area to the Allies' preparations for D-Day. This operation required rehearsals. Field Marshall Montgomery noted Slapton Sands' striking similarities to the most westerly of the 5 invasion points, code named 'Utah beach,' selected it as a training ground.



30,000 American troops (infantry, artillery, engineers, medical personnel & tank battalions) took part & 16 million tons of equipment & supplies descended on Devon's shores for rehearsal exercises & D-Day.

Evacuation & 'Occupation'

In December 1943 over 3,000 inhabitants were evacuated from their villages & 30,000 acres of land. They were given 6 weeks to pack & leave and wouldn't return for at least 10 months. Some had never left their village before & the upheaval was traumatic for many. Farmers had to make arrangements for livestock & any recoverable crops. Many stayed with friends & relations outside the evacuation zone. Some families moved away never to return home. In 1954, 10 years after D-Day, U.S Army authorities unveiled an obelisk thanking those who gave up their homes & lands to provide a battle training area. It stands by the middle car park & lists the main villages that were evacuated.

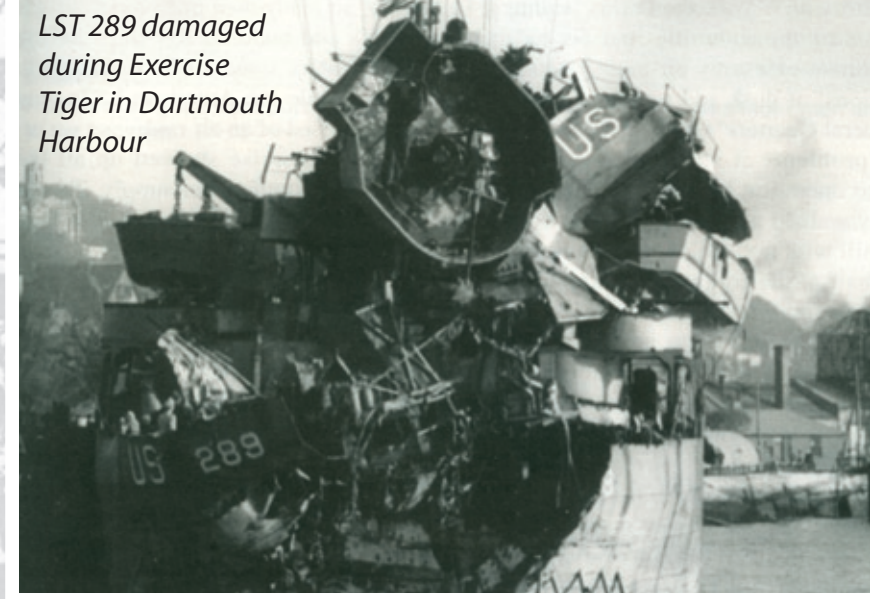


Thanks for specialist tank paint donations to manufacturers: **BEDEC** & suppliers: **ProMain**

Training Exercises & Exercise Tiger

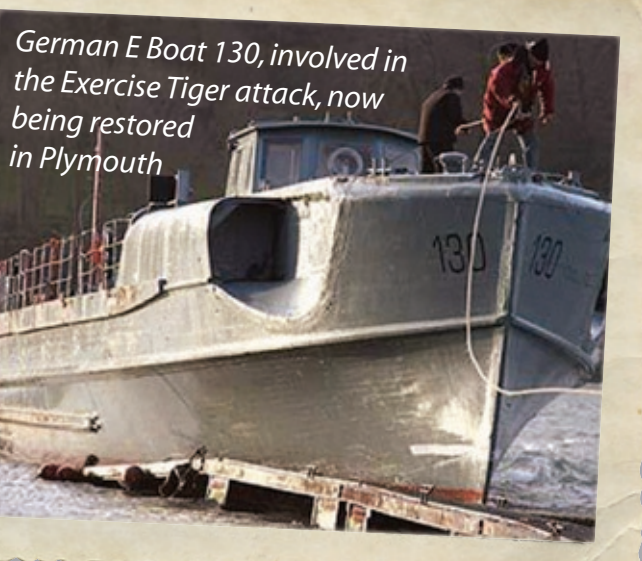


The first training rehearsal, known as Duck I, took place in December 1943. For 8 months there were almost continual exercises (Fox, Muskrat, Beaver & Trousers) each larger than the last culminating in Exercise Tiger & Exercise Fabius.

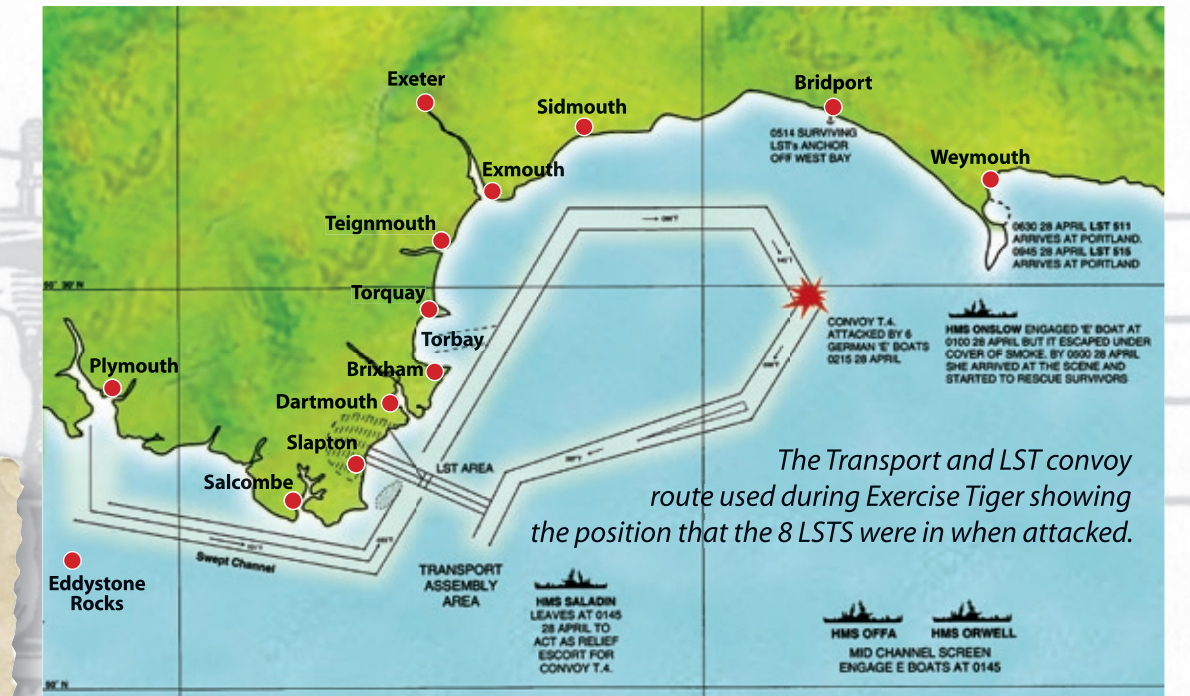


LST 289 damaged during Exercise Tiger in Dartmouth Harbour

On Supreme Allied Commander Eisenhower's order live ammunition was used in the later exercises as he wanted the men to be hardened to real battle conditions. As a result Slapton saw heavy losses of life before the invasion of the 6th June. The most tragic episode occurred during Exercise Tiger.



This 8 day exercise used landing craft or LSTs (Landing Ship, Tank - slow flat bottomed assault ships capable of carrying several hundred men, lorries & tanks) to deploy troops & equipment onto Slapton Sands. The convoy set sail from ports including Plymouth, Dartmouth, & Brixham. Their winding route across Lyme Bay almost to Portland Bill & back to Slapton simulated the length of time it would take to journey to Utah Beach on D-Day.



The first assault troops arrived on the morning of the 27th April. In the dark morning of the 28th April 9 E-Boats (fast moving German ships armed with torpedoes) discovered a poorly protected convoy of 8 LSTs transporting a follow-up force with trucks & heavy engineering equipment, & attacked.

Just after 2am 3 ships were torpedoed. LST 507 was set ablaze then sank. LST 531 sank within 6 minutes, & LST 289 managed to limp back to Dartmouth. The stench of fuel was heavy in the air & on the surface of the sea; many hundreds of men were trapped below decks as the ships & sea burned.

749 American soldiers & sailors died that night of wounds, hypothermia, or incorrectly fitted lifebelts in the cold waters of the channel. Many more men lost their lives during Exercise Tiger than died in the actual landings on Utah beach.

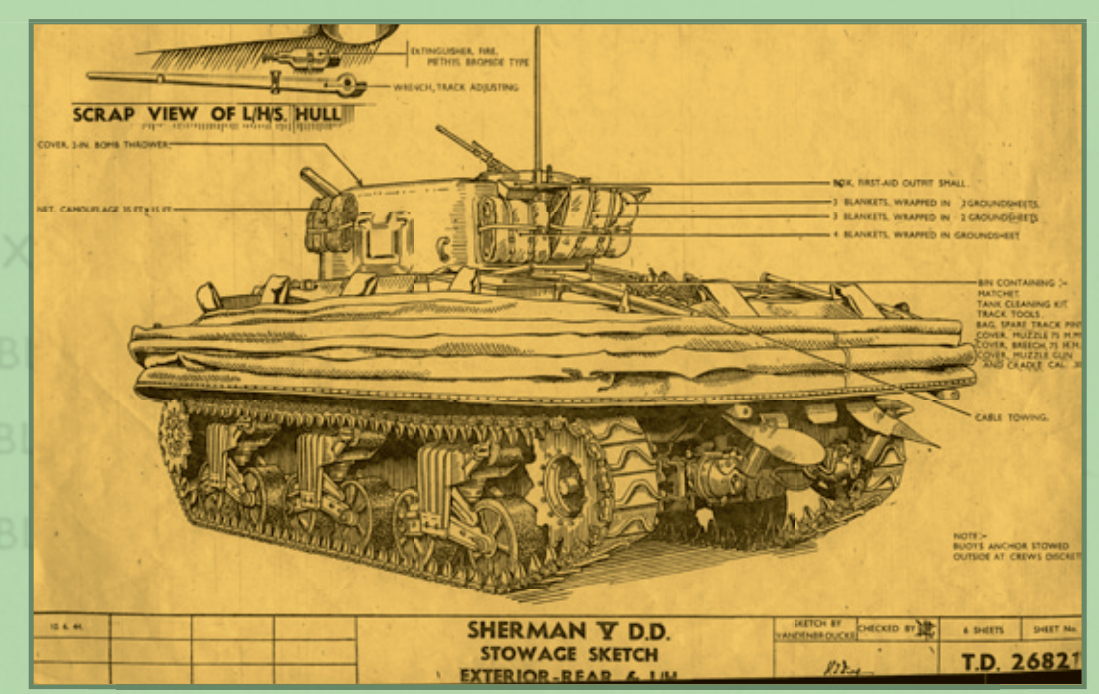
There were fears the Germans could have captured key information & discovered Allies' plans for D-Day, but once all high level intelligence officers were accounted for, plans progressed.

After their ordeal survivors were told under threat of court-martial not to talk of it prior to the invasion. Those uninjured went on to take part in the D-Day landings.

Casualty figures for Exercise Tiger were released with those of D-Day in August 1944.

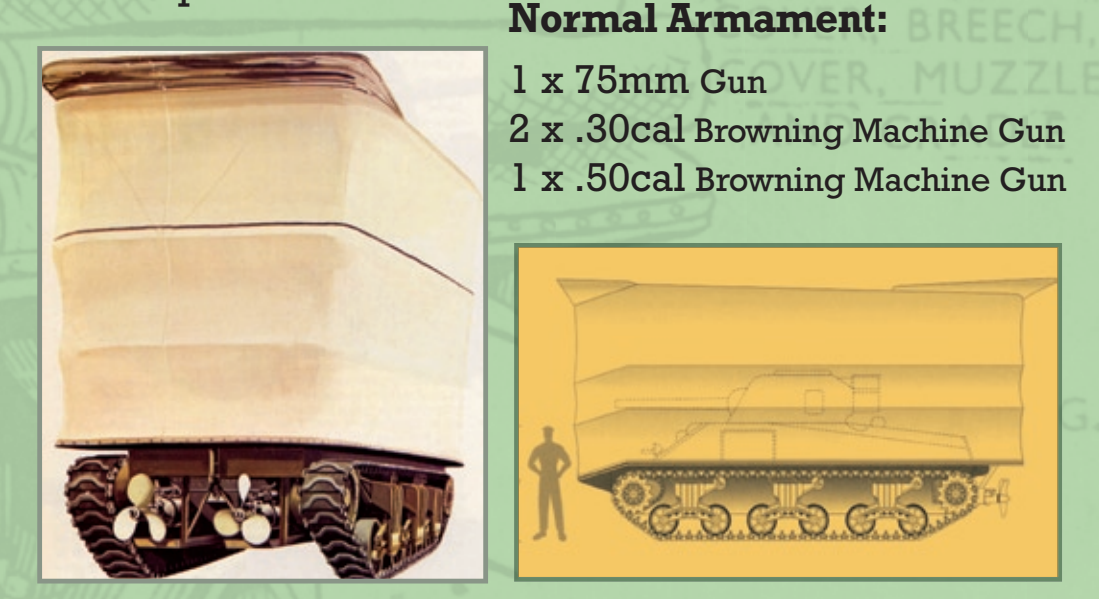
It is widely recognised that the success of the eventual D-Day assault was due, in no small part, to the rehearsals carried out here at Slapton Sands.

TANK SPECIFICATIONS

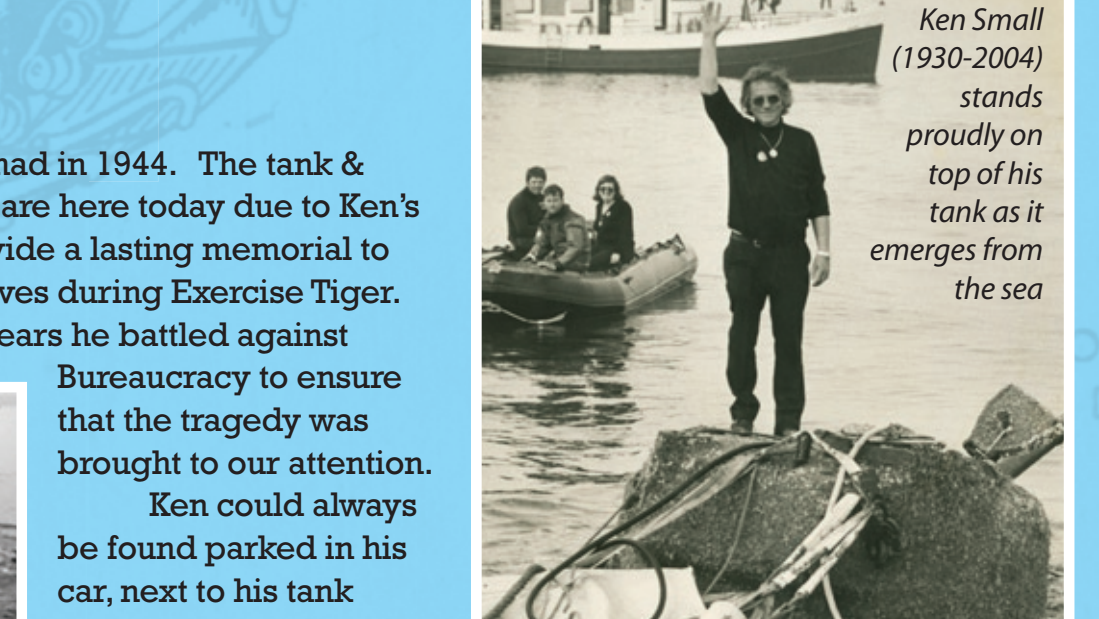


WORLD WAR II AMERICAN SHERMAN D.D.

Recovery date: 19th May 1954
SPECIFICATION
 Model M4A1 Duplex Drive
 Height of Tank with screen : raised 13 feet, lowered 9 feet.
 Weight 28 tons - Waterproofed Cast Iron Hull
 Water speed 5 knots



Recovering & Restoring the Tank



The 'swimming tank' was a British adaptation of the American Sherman. It had a collapsible rubberised canvas skirt held up by inflatable tubes & iron hoops giving the correct displacement to float the tank. Propelled by tracks on land & by two 26 inch diameter propellers in water, it could reach up to 5 knots (9 mph).

LST 507 U.S. ARMY

- Alexander, Walter W.
- Allen, John J.
- Arcuri, Sam S.
- Barrett, Chester
- Battle, William R.
- Bertini, Nilo V.
- Blake, Floyd E.
- Blind, Frederick W.
- Blond, William
- Bohl, Jacob A.
- Brown, Edward L.
- Brown, George E.
- Brown, John B.
- Brumfield, John W.
- Campbell, Terrence V.
- Campbell, William M.
- Catman, Ulysses J.
- Cavanaugh, James P.
- Clayton, Kenneth
- Conner, Willie J.
- Cooke, Robert M.
- Craig, Arthur L.
- Crawford, Poindexter D.
- Cutrone, Samuel J.
- Davenport, Bernard A.
- DeLeon, Anastasio
- Di Pasquale, Michael J.
- Dindro, Paul J.
- Von Wald, Richard F.
- Dobson, Troy
- Dubiez, Frank
- Dye, Queng J.
- Eintrach, Herman
- Fischer, Edwin G.
- Fleming, Herman
- Follmer, William J.
- Glass, John P.
- Goodhue, Elmer J.
- Grigsby, Roy B.
- Grossman, Harold H.
- Hanks, John P.
- Haynes, Ernest P.
- Hogland, Alvie M.
- Hoops, George E.
- Humble, Merle B.
- Johnson, Horace
- Johnson, John T.
- Johnston, Claude E.
- Joyal, Raymond O.
- Keight, Elmer L.
- Krets, Harold
- Lambert, Douglas L.
- Lee, Harold E.
- Lo Preso, Joseph P.
- Mancuso, Joseph P.
- Marcum, Glen R.
- Marino, Joseph A.
- Marino, Patty
- Marts, Wilbur
- Massa, Charles F.
- Methner, Paul A.
- Mieczkowski, Harry
- Miglianico, John A.
- Misciano, Christian
- Mitchell, James C.
- Mlakar, Albert
- Molander, Norman C.
- Goldsmith, Leonard
- Crecco, Joseph G.
- Griffin, Jimmie W.
- Crunch, Nelson
- Gulleche, William T.
- Hampton, Jerry P.
- Hoffman, Bruce B.
- King, Philip E.
- Koski, Theodore J.
- Leibster, Alvin L.
- Lichy, Frank T.
- Mackey, Robert C.

LST 507 U.S. ARMY

- Bailey, James
- Bennen, Charles D.
- Bettencourt, John J.
- Blackie, Henry A.
- Burns, Sylvester M.
- Carroll, Francis A.
- Cieary, James F.
- Clark, James J.
- Collins, Conner D.
- Crowe, James T. Jr.
- Cusak, Vincent P.
- Daly, Carl W.
- DeLucci, Thomas J. Jr.
- Dickerson, William W.
- Dinneen, Joseph M.
- Dobson, Henry R.
- Durrum, James W.
- Eisenbach, Harold E.
- Field, Paul R.
- Fitts, Felton T.
- Gambrel, Jake
- Garlock, Charles W.
- Geehan, Raymond R.
- Gibson, Richard M.
- Goldsmith, Leonard
- Griffin, Jimmie W.
- Crunch, Nelson
- Gulleche, William T.
- Hampton, Jerry P.
- Hoffman, Bruce B.
- King, Philip E.
- Koski, Theodore J.
- Leibster, Alvin L.
- Lichy, Frank T.
- Mackey, Robert C.

LST 531 U.S. ARMY

- Adcock, Ovid C.
- Aik, Alvin E.
- Alexander, Marvin R.
- Allen, Delmar R.
- Alsp, Albert F.
- Arsimendiz, Joe M.
- Ashberry, Marion J.
- Augustynski, William
- Baldwin, Raymond
- Banister, Francis C.
- Barber, John L.
- Barber, Ralph E.
- Basgall, Edwin A.
- Baugus, James R.
- Bean, Carl M.
- Bergfeld, Walter B.
- Bird, Howard G.
- Birkley, Louis L. Jr.
- Bisaillon, Martial J.
- Blethroad, Thomas J.
- Blevins, Harley E.
- Bolton, Louis Archer
- Bonderson, Bernard E.
- Borchers, Harry J.
- Boat, Winford G.
- Boyles, Hoy F.
- Bratton, Porter J.
- Brecheisen, Calvin D.
- Brewer, Wayne R.
- Brown, Ivan J.
- Bryant, Donald S.
- Bryson, Ernest C.
- Buckner, George W.
- Burke, Robert E.
- Burks, Harold W.
- Burns, Harold W.
- Burrell, Robert T.
- Butry, Metro
- Cain, Jay H.
- Caraciolo, Dominick
- Carey, Ernest
- Cates, George P.
- Cesaro, Libro C.
- Chamberlain, Richard L.

LST 531 U.S. ARMY

- Adcock, Ovid C.
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- Allen, Delmar R.
- Alsp, Albert F.
- Arsimendiz, Joe M.
- Ashberry, Marion J.
- Augustynski, William
- Baldwin, Raymond
- Banister, Francis C.
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- Basgall, Edwin A.
- Baugus, James R.
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- Birkley, Louis L. Jr.
- Bisaillon, Martial J.
- Blethroad, Thomas J.
- Blevins, Harley E.
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- Bonderson, Bernard E.
- Borchers, Harry J.
- Boat, Winford G.
- Boyles, Hoy F.
- Bratton, Porter J.
- Brecheisen, Calvin D.
- Brewer, Wayne R.
- Brown, Ivan J.
- Bryant, Donald S.
- Bryson, Ernest C.
- Buckner, George W.
- Burke, Robert E.
- Burks, Harold W.
- Burns, Harold W.
- Burrell, Robert T.
- Butry, Metro
- Cain, Jay H.
- Caraciolo, Dominick
- Carey, Ernest
- Cates, George P.
- Cesaro, Libro C.
- Chamberlain, Richard L.

LST 531 U.S. NAVY

- Achey, Allen O. Jr.
- Anderson, Willard C.
- Baughner, Ellis W.
- Behrens, J.W.M.
- Bolling, Floyd H.
- Borgerson, Ray
- Brickey, William E.
- Bridgman, Wade L.
- Brock, Norris G.
- Brunnitt, Clinton H. Jr.
- Colles, Vincent M.
- Controll, W. H. Jr.
- Carr, Frederick C.
- Cason, Paskel O.
- Eckhoff, Raymond J.
- Cobern, William W.
- Colwell, Richard L.
- Corideo, Richard V.
- Cowan, Eugene R.
- Coyle, Michael J.
- Cram, A. F.
- Croswell, Curtis W.
- Cruz, Joseph Jr.
- Cummings, Eugene F.
- Czerwinski, William J.
- Danley, Harry I.
- Stillwell, Elmer D.
- Strader, Glen T.
- Summerall, Marvin L.
- Supphin, Claude R.
- Denton, Harold C.
- Ratz, Owen A.
- Drake, Robert G.
- Duffy, Ralph
- Edson, Richard W.
- Ellis, John J.
- Thomas, Fay E.
- Ford, Hobart Jr.
- Gaboya, Edward A.
- Gallagher, John J.
- Goldstein, Samuel
- Gunn, Murray S.
- Hall, William C.
- Harrell, Charles
- Huttie, Eugene
- Hill, John H.
- Holmes, Samuel D. Jr.
- Hopkins, Lawrence E.
- Hurley, James W.
- Jackman, Walter P.
- Jacques, Edmond L.
- Jansen, Melvin J.

LST 289 U.S. ARMY

- Webb, Grady D. Jr.
- Weist, Larry R.
- Pearson, Luther M.
- Whitelock, William L.
- Williams, Horace S.
- Wilson, Kenneth P.
- Wilson, Paul W.
- Wilson, Raymond B.
- Wilson, Vernon S.
- Winjen, Floyd E.
- Wirih, Russell L.
- Wolgram, Henry F.
- Wolpert, Frederick J.
- Woodson, Darryl V.
- Wright, Lester
- Weitzel, Myron A.
- Wyckoff, John E.
- Yadrick, Mike J.
- Yates, John W.
- Yates, Phillip R.

LST 289 U.S. ARMY

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the above details, those involved with the placing of this plaque cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions that may have inadvertently occurred.

LST 289 U.S. ARMY

- Jencovic, Albert J.
- Johnson, Albert W.
- Kart, Henry
- Kaska, Albert P.
- Kelley, Ford H.
- Kerby, Reuben
- Kessinger, Mark F.
- Kirby, Grady E.
- Kirkwood, Ralph A.
- Kuhanosky, Alexander
- Kuzans, Harold D.
- Lacey, Burdell E.
- Land, Charles G.
- Leaman, Hollace H.
- Levine, Harry
- Levy, L. H.
- Locklear, Melvin L.
- Manning, Tiffany
- Marcus, Emery E. Jr.
- McCuen, Frank A.
- McLean, Robert W.
- Merrill, William J.
- Miller, Ralph R.
- Montgomery, Doyle D.
- Neal, Kermit H.
- Nealon, L. O.
- Noble, Elisha G.
- Parker, Cornelius J.
- Pear, Williams
- Petavacage, William J.
- Peters, James D.
- Pogue, Richard
- Polonczak, John E.
- Russell, Daniel L.
- Samuelson, Gail E.
- Schimanke, Daniel R.
- Scott, James O.
- Shea, John Maurice
- Shengrang, George
- Sheppard, Thanel V.
- Showers, Lyle F.
- Sochacki, Edward A.
- Solomon, William
- Spangler, Walter A.
- Starr, Joseph L. Jr.
- Stoklosa, Edward
- Taylor, George W.
- Townsend, Willie W.
- Unger, Alvin C.
- Vendeland, Albert J.
- Walls, James W.
- Walters, Robert G.
- Watson, Raleigh F.
- Wang, James W.
- White, Ernest T.
- Witten, Lloyd L.

LST 289 U.S. ARMY

- Payton, Marvin L.
- Peake, Cleo B.
- Pearson, Luther M.
- Penalver, Joe V.
- Penn, Milton
- Peters, Gerrit
- Peters, Lindsay Jr.
- Picking, Charles R.
- Poggi, Alfred E.
- Poore, Winford J.
- Pope, Edgar F.
- Phentzky, Charles J.
- Reese, Thomas E.
- Ray, Ulton A.
- Reese, William R.
- Jensen, Richard W.
- Renner, Lowell L.
- Rettinger, Irving
- Rice, Playford R.
- Richardson, Alvin F.
- Riggs, Robert R.
- Riter, Edward L.
- Roberson, James E.
- Roberson, Melvin A.
- Roberts, Ralph R.
- Rodriguez, Aristedes
- Ruediger, Harry
- Salemno, Raymond G.
- Sanders, Elmer J.
- Sandford, Harold L.
- Schleyer, Richard C.
- Schmidt, Marcus W.
- Schultheis, Carl L.
- Sessman, Joseph H.
- Long, Eyan W.
- Long, Joseph D.
- Long, Samuel S.
- Louder, Blaine L.
- Lowell, Theodore G.
- Lowrie, Earl C.
- Lute, Otto Jr.
- Lyon, Wilbert W.
- MacDonald, Lawrence
- Mahoney, Patrick J.
- Malassi, John
- Manck, John V.
- Mance, Michael
- Mares, Robert E.
- Marsh, Ralph D.
- Mathewson, John L.
- Mattos, Frank F.
- Mayfield, Haskell H.
- McCampbell, Louis B.
- McClatchey, Evert M.
- McCormick, Thomas B.
- McCuen, Grady H. Jr.
- McKinnon, Roy E.
- McMore, Earl M.
- Meehan, William F.
- Megathlin, Robert H.
- Mercado, Trinidad
- Fisher, E. C.
- Ford, Hobart Jr.
- Gaboya, Edward A.
- Gallagher, John J.
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To learn more about Exercise Tiger see www.exercisetigeremorial.com
 To discover more about the area see www.slaptonline.org.uk

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Panel design: [luke.com](http://www.luke.com)

The Slapton Line Partnership consists of Devon County Council, South Hams District Council, South Devon AONB & Natural England, with input from the Environment Agency, the Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust, the Field Studies Council at Slapton Ley and local community representatives.